

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Burton

A HOUSE RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Otis Ray Willham for a lifetime of service to his community and to Post #5864 of the Indiana Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Whereas, Otis Ray Willham attended school at Woods Creek, Clementsville, Kentucky, Casey County, up to the 4th grade, working on neighbors farms until enlisting in the United States Navy on January 5, 1945, graduating basic training at Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Virginia, serving with the amphibious forces of the South Pacific on board the U.S.S. Gantner APD-42 (Amphibious Personal Destroyer) which traveled through the Panama Canal to meet his next ship, the U.S.S. St. Paul CA-73 (Heavy Cruiser), at Pearl Harbor Navy Base, Hawaii, before being assigned to APA Fleet of "Flooding Hotels" then to the Yard Oiler refueller fleet until June, 1946, by coincidence one of Mr. Willham's older brothers, James Hardin Willham, served on the U.S.S. Denver CL-58 (Light Cruiser) 1943-45 and on one occasion, the two were anchored in the same harbor at Eniwetok (Marshall Islands) during the military campaign unknowingly to either, and



Whereas, Otis Ray Willham was honorably discharged July 2, 1946, with the rank of Seaman 1st Class, with the following decorations: the World War Two Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and

Whereas, Otis Ray Willham returned home to Casey County, Kentucky and married Geneva Mason on March 10, 1947, and of this union was born one son, Leonard Paul Willham, born in Franklin, Indiana, Johnson County, a year after coming to Greenwood, Indiana to work at the Arvin Industries' Greenwood Plant, and

Whereas, Otis Ray Willham left Arvin's in 1951 to work for the New York Central Railroad (Big Four) for a year before being laid off and returned to Arvin Industries' Franklin Plant until 1954, then left for an eighteen-year career at West Baking Company of Indianapolis, Marion County, up until 1972, and

Whereas, Otis Ray Willham was a Charter Member of the Local Bakers & Confectionary Workers of America, AFL-CIO, and a union steward at West Baking Company from 1955-1958. He was one of the first technicians to set up polyurethane rappers and baggers machines in the Midwest, and this process was made public in The Indianapolis Star-News, and

Whereas, Otis Ray Willham returned to Arvin Industries' Franklin Plant after the closing of West Baking Company in 1972. He retired from Arvin Industries on January 1, 1988, on the production line and as a member of Local Union #2993 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL-CIO, becoming a life member of Post 5864 Indiana Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars serving 30 years on the Post Honor Guard, which included carrying the Flag of the United States in town parades and grave site ceremonies all over the State of Indiana, and held the Post Office of Sergeant-at-Arms, also in joint support of Greenwood American Legion Post 252 of which he has been a member since 1954: Therefore,



*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

SECTION 1. That the 115th General Assembly honors Otis Ray Willham, a life long resident of the State of Indiana, and commends him for his dedicated service to his community, to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5864, Department of Indiana; and the great Hoosier State of Indiana.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to: Mr. Otis Ray Willham; Mr. Paul Willham; and Mr. William H. Hendley, former 11th District Adjutant, Department of Indiana, The American Legion.

